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Identical letters dated 21 February 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Permanent Representatives at the United Nations of the States members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and in the capacity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chair of the Council, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter (see annex), in response to the letter addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dated 15 February 2012.

It would be appreciated if the present letter and the annex thereto could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia,
Chair of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 February 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We, the undersigned, the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), hereby wish to express our utmost disapproval of the letter addressed to you by the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran dated 15 February 2012, pertaining to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The letter constitutes a flagrant interference not only in the internal affairs of a Member State of the United Nations, but also in the internal affairs of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. It is a clear violation of the principles of non-interference enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations as well as of the most basic principles of good-neighbourliness, international relations and international law.

It is unfortunate that the members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf must once again address Iranian meddling in GCC affairs, as reflected in the 120th Ministerial Council session statement: "The Council condemns Iran's continuing intervention and blatant provocations in the internal affairs of the GCC States. Iran's attempt to sow discord and promote sectarian strife in the Arab countries constitutes a violation of sovereignty and contradicts international norms and laws and the principles of good-neighbourliness, principles enshrined both in the United Nations Charter and in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation."

Maintaining the security and stability of the member States of the GCC is a collective responsibility, based on complementarity and solidarity and on the consideration that the security and stability of member States of the GCC is indivisible in accordance with the relevant covenants and security and joint defence agreements. The threat to the security and stability of any member State of the GCC is considered to represent a threat to the security and stability of all member States of the GCC.

In this context, the presence of the Peninsula Shield joint forces, which were created in 1984 and are composed of all GCC member States, including Bahrain, is based on a sovereign request by the Government of Bahrain and in no way constitutes foreign intervention in the country. This presence is fully in line with regional agreements on the collective security of the GCC countries, and especially the mutual defence pact signed in December 2000. Moreover, the task of the said forces is exclusively confined to the protection of the borders, marine premises and vital infrastructure of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, we pride ourselves in our record of peaceful relations with all nations of the world. We regret to have to remind Iran of the principles of good-neighbourliness and respect for the sovereignty of other nations and to demand, once again, that it refrain from propagating false and unfounded information and interfering in their domestic affairs. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you would disregard the above-mentioned letter from Iran.

The member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf will continue working side by side with the international community to promote and protect peace and security in the region and around the world.

New York, 21 February 2012

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad **Alotaibi**
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lyutha Sultan **Al-Mughairy**
Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdulrahman **Al-Hamadi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdulkhaleq Bin-Dhaaer **Al-Yafei**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates
to the United Nations